

January 8, 1997

TO: Frank Hawkins, Director, Office of International Health Programs

REPORT OF THE DOE REPRESENTATIVE AT THE FUNERAL OF MARSHALL ISLANDS PRESIDENT AMATA KABUA

I. Background

I was selected to represent the Department of Energy at the State Funeral of President Iroijlaplap Amata Kabua which was held at Majuro Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands on Monday, January 6, 1997 (local date). President Kabua had passed away on December 20, 1996, in Honolulu, Hawaii after a six-week illness. There were memorial services for him in Honolulu on 12/27/96, which, because of my presence in Hawaii, I was also fortunate to attend.

II. Dates

January 5, 1997 - Kwajalein

January 6, 1997 - Majuro & Kwajalein

January 7, 1997 - Kwajalein

III. Activities/Observations

I was a member of the U.S. Delegation to the funeral, which was headed by former Governor of Hawaii, John Waihee, and included U.S. Ambassador Joan Plaisted, BG Robert Armbruster, USASSDC/Huntsville, Col. Scott Cottrell, Commander, Kwajalein (USAKA), Col. John Cole, OPIA/State, Vic Hobson, DOI, and myself.


We flew on military aircraft to all destinations: Air Mobility Command to and from Kwajalein; and on the USAKA Dash-7 to and from Majuro. The funeral took place in Majuro, the Marshall Islands capital. It consisted of a two-hour, formal service conducted on the morning of January 6, 1997, at the RMI's legislative building, in conjunction with the opening of the Regular Session of the nation's parliament (called the Nitijela). After a period of refreshments in the parliament's lounge, and an afternoon rest break, we attended the late afternoon burial ceremony which was held at the presidential mausoleum established at the Kabua compound at Lobo Weto in Majuro. The RMI government held an informal reception for all the delegations on Monday evening at the new, Marshall Islands Resort's Outrigger Hotel.

The entire funeral and related ceremonies, were, as one would expect, formal, restrained, and very dignified, especially so, given President Kabua's high, traditional rank of *Iroijlaplap* and long-time service (seventeen years) as the first President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. It remained throughout, a family-controlled, if not *Iroij*-managed event, who by their prominence, presence, participation, and eulogies, clearly were burying one of their very own.

As you will note by copies of the attached funeral programs, there were numerous testaments and eulogies, many given by fellow *Iroij*. Most were in Marshallese; some were translated into English for the foreign delegations. They preached a message of love, and, significantly, political unity, recounting the President's vision and progress on the path to his nation's independence, correctly describing him as the Father of the Marshallese Nation. Messages of condolences from most of the Pacific Rim countries and other major nations were read by Foreign Minister Muller. Among visiting foreign dignitaries were the Prime Ministers of Papua -New Guinea, the Cook Islands; the Presidents of Nauru, Kiribati, Micronesia, Belau, and the Foreign Ministers of Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands. The Secretary-General of the Pacific Forum also attended. Ambassadors were sent from the regional embassies of New Zealand, Australia, Korea, Japan, and China. Former colleagues and the leadership from the old Congress of Micronesia came as well. President Kabua was a highly respected Pacific leader, very popular with fellow islanders throughout the region, and very much an islander himself, although quite urbane, sophisticated, and worldly-wise. Governor Waihee was a personal friend of President Kabua and the family. He gave a warm eulogy and message from President Clinton. All in all, I estimated there were nearly 1,000 persons crowded into the Nitijela Chamber for the service, with the corridors and grounds lined with hundreds more.

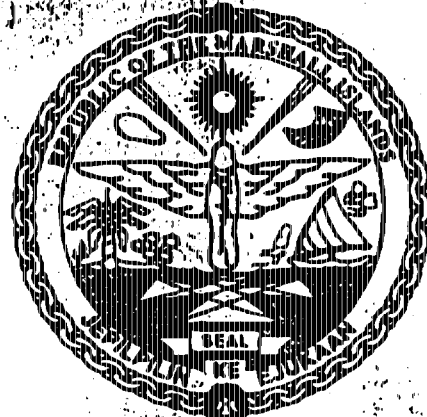
President Kabua was interred in a grand marble mausoleum installed on the family's weto in Majuro, in a dignified, formal ceremony, replete with honor guards, a twenty-one gun rifle salute, and laudatory speeches. Several thousand people assembled on the property and along the roads to pay their respects. The RMI government and the Kabua family did an outstanding job in organizing, managing, and conducting the funeral, as well as in attending to and transporting the many foreign delegates. I was most touched throughout the long day.

Ambassador Plaisted and her staff was particularly helpful to the U.S. delegation, in transporting most of us and in offering the hospitality and respite of her home. We all very much appreciated this. I am also grateful to you, Dr. Seligman, and Mr. Brush, as well as any other official, who made it possible for me to attend and represent DOE at this memorable event. For me, it represents a significant honor, and constitutes a highpoint, albeit sorrowful the occasion, in my association with the nation and people of the Marshall Islands. Thank you very much.


William D. Jackson
EH Representative,
Honolulu

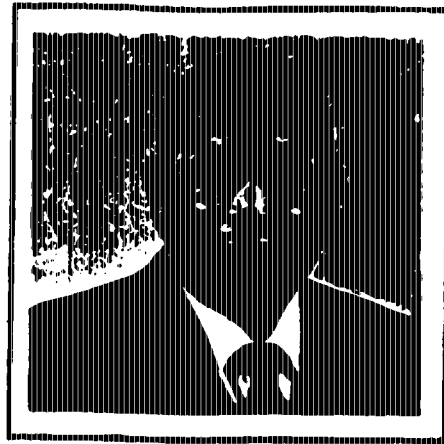
Attachments: Funeral Programs

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State Funeral
for the Late
President Irojlaplap
Amata Kabua

Nitijela Chamber
January 16, 1997



1928 - 1996

*President Iroilaplap
Amata Kabua*

Master of Ceremonies:
The Honorable Philip Muller
Minister of Foreign Affairs

10:30 AM **Jabnefej by Alap Enwija Tokbede**

10:35 AM **National Anthem**

10:40 AM **Invocation: Reverend Jude Samson**

10:45 AM **Master of Ceremonies introduces Heads of Delegations**

10:50 AM **Master of Ceremonies introduces Speakers**

Eulogy:
Hon. Iroij Christopher Locak
Minister of Education

Remarks:
Rt. Hon. Sir Julius Chan
Prime Minister - Papua New Guinea,
On Behalf of the Forum Island
Countries

Remarks:
Hon. Governor John Valsec, On Behalf
of the President Of the United States
William J. Clinton

Master of Ceremonies reads Condolences

Song No. 334: "Ne Ainikien Ej Kiriok Kij"

Remarks:
Hon. Iroij Kotak Locak
Chairman, Council of Iroij

Remarks:
Hon. Kunio Lemari
Acting President

Remarks:
Hon. Kessai Note
Speaker Of the Nitijela

Remarks:
Hon. Iroijlaplap Imala Kabua
On Behalf of the Family -
Nukun eo an Jemen

Remarks:
Hon. Iroijlaplap Jurelang Zedraia
On Behalf of the Family -
Nukun eo an Jemen

12:00 PM **Song No. 348 "Nai Inaj Lo Ao Dri Lomor"**

12:05 PM **Benediction: Reverend Erakrik Samuel**

12:10 PM **Procession of Last Respect**

Heads of Delegations
Council of Iroij
Cabinet
Nitijela
Distinguished Guests
Public Service Heads
General Public

Note: Please join families and friends for refreshments after the service.

Song No. 334 Ne Alalkien Ej Kirluk Kij

1. Ne ainkien ej kirluk kij in e mat ien jerbai,
Im e alikar an ran eo waloktok;
Ro drien mour ilo lal in rej ella jen intan ko,
Ne ainkien ej kirluk kij non ibben

Cho. Ne Ej kir kij ijo ilon,
Ne Ej kir kij ijo ilon,
Ne Ej kir kij ijo ilon,
Ne Ej kir eta ilon I naj uak.

3. Ar kwalok kin Kraist en jap jemlok non ien ne je mij
Im kennan kin An joij im kejbarek kij;
Im ne emwij an jerbai im kabwe lol kin naan ko An,
Ne ainkien ej kirluk kij non ibben.

Song No. 348: "Nat Inaj Lo Ao Dri Lomor"

1. Nat I Naj lo ao Dri Lomor
Nat I naj maron jelmae
I naj lo E kin monono
Jisos Kraist-Ear mij kin io

Cho. Aet I naj lo turin mejen,
Ijo jikin monono;
I naj lo E lo aibuijutj,
I naj lo E juon ran.

2. Etinar ao lo E kio,
Ewe marok ej kijbil io;
A ran eo emon Ej itok,
I naj lo An aibuijutj.
3. Ne buremij e naj jemlok,
Juon ien lonlin elap,
Ne aolep tal naj jirnwe,
Im marok erom maran.

National Anthem: "Forever Marshall Islands"

Words and Music by Amata Kabua

Aelon eo no ion lometo
 Elnwot wut ko loti ion dren e lae
 Kln meram in mekar jen ijo lan
 Erreo an romak loir kin meram in mour
 Iltan pein Anij
 Eweloo im woj
 Kejolit kij kin ijin jikir e mol
 Iija min I lok jen in ao lemoron
 Anij an ro jemern
 Wonake im keiramon Aelin kein am
 Iltan pein Anij eweloo im woj
 Kejolit kij kin ijin jikir e mol
 Ijiamin I lok jen in ao lemoron
 Anij an ro jemern
 Wonake im keiramon Aelon kein am

English Translation

My island lies o'er the ocean;
 Like a wreath of flowers up on the sea;
 With the light of mekar from far above;
 Shining with the brilliance of rays of life
 Our Father, God of our creation
 Bequeathed to us our Motherland;
 I'll never leave my dear home sweet home
 God of our forefathers
 Protect and bless forever Marshall Islands
 Our Father, God of our creation
 Bequeathed to us our Motherland
 I'll never leave my dear home sweet home
 God of our forefathers
 Protect and bless forever Marshall Islands

National Anthem: "Forever Marshall Islands"
Words and Music by Amata Kabua

A'elon eo ao ion lomeio
Eia woi wot ko lo'i ion a'en e lae
Kin maram in mekar jen ijo ilan
Ere'o an romak iot kin maram in mear
Ilan pein Anij
Eweleo in woi
Kejoli ki' kin jin jik'e e mol
Ija min i lok jen in ao lemoron
Anij an ro jemara
Wonake in keiramon A'ela Kein an
Ilan pein Anij eweleo in woi
Kejoli ki' kin jin jik'e e mol
Ijanin i lok jen in ao lemoron
Anij an ro jemara
Wonake in keiramon A'elon Kein an

English Translation

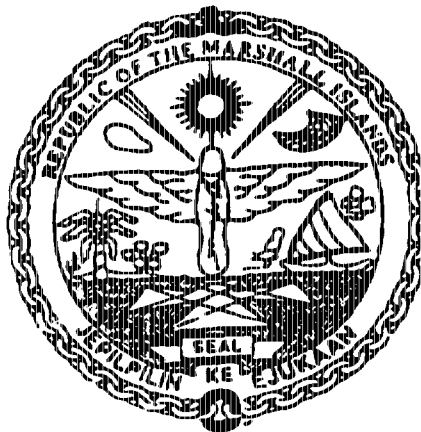
My island lies o'er the ocean;
Like a wreath of flowers up on the sea;
With the light of mekar from far above;
Shining with the brilliance of rays of life
Our Father's wondrous creation
Bequeathed to us our Motherland;
I'll never leave my dear home sweet home;
God of our forefathers
Protect and bless forever Marshall Islands;
Our Father's wondrous creation
Bequeathed to us our Motherland
I'll never leave my dear home sweet home
God of our forefathers
Protect and bless forever Marshall Islands

Master of Ceremonies:

3:45pm	Casket leaves Nijela Chamber by Motorcade
4:00pm	Motorcade arrives Bukian Lobo Weto
4:05pm	Honor Guard carries Casket to Mausoleum
4:10pm	National Anthem / Raising of the Flag
4:15pm	Invocation
4:20pm	Master of Ceremonies introduces Speakers
Remarks:	Hon. Kamio D. Lemari Acting President
Remarks:	Hon. Iroij Michael Kabua
Remarks:	Hon. Iroij Jurelang Zedkiaus
4:50pm	Benediction
4:55pm	Burial accompanied by Honor Guard Salute
5:00pm	Presentation of Flag

Note: Please join families and friends for refreshments after the burial.

EBWILOK LAN



Burial Ceremony
for the Late
President and Troijlaplap

Amata Kabua

Bukien Lobo Weto
Monday, January 6, 1997